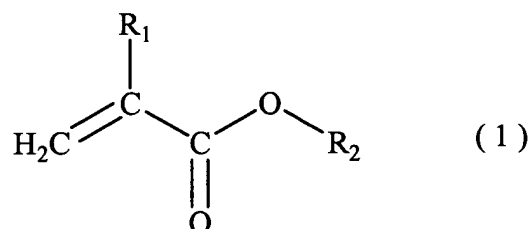


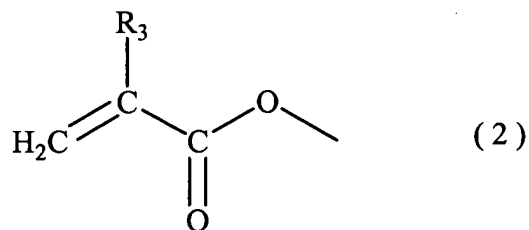
Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Watanabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,795,650.

The present invention is directed to an acrylic resin composition which comprises, as recited in claim 1, a repeating unit derived from (i) a methacrylate of formula (1)



wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen or methyl, R<sub>2</sub> represents alkyl having 1 to 14 carbon atoms or aralkyl having 7 to 14 carbon atoms, and at least one hydrogen in the alkyl or aralkyl may be substituted with alkoxy having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

(ii) a repeating unit derived from a monomer having at least two (meth)acryloyl groups of the formula (2)



wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen or methyl, and

(iii) a repeating unit derived from a monomer containing at least one polar functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, hydroxyl, amide, epoxy, formyl, oxetany, aminol and isocyanate, and containing olefinic double bond.

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Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Watanabe does not disclose a composition, in particular, a repeating unit derived from a monomer having at least two (meth)acryloyl groups, as in Applicants' formula (2). Therefore, Watanabe does not anticipate the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

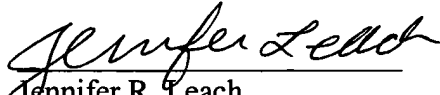
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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Date: March 27, 2006